



Pemberton Township Schools



Pemberton Pride Newsletter

June, 2018

Pursuing Excellence, One Child at a Time



Six Pemberton Township Schools have been designated National Schools of Character by Character.org. Each year, Character.org and its state affiliates certify schools and districts that demonstrate a dedicated focus on character development with a positive impact on academic achievement, student behavior, school climate and their communities.

Fort Dix Elementary School, Samuel Busansky School, Alexander Denbo School, Howard Emmons School, Pemberton Early Childhood Education Center and Joseph Stackhouse School were all recognized as 2018 National Schools of Character.

“Through an in-depth and rigorous evaluation process, these schools were found to be exemplary models in character development,” said Sheril Morgan of Character.org.

Harker-Wylie Elementary School was named a State School of Character this year, along with each of the National Schools of Character. Harker-Wylie joins the four schools named New Jersey State Schools of Character last year—Alexander Denbo School, Helen Fort Middle School, Newcomb Middle School and Howard Emmons School.

Above, as part of a character ed project, students at Alexander Denbo School prepare boxes to send overseas to military personnel for Operation Yellow Ribbon.

Congratulations PTHS Top 12 Students!



Each year, the Pemberton Township High School Top 12 students are recognized at a special Pemberton Rotary Dinner in their honor. Their outstanding academics, community service and student involvement activities have prepared them for a bright future, as they head to such distinguished universities as Cornell, NYU, Loyola, Drexel and more. [Click here to read more about the amazing 2018 Top Twelve!](#)

Above, the PTHS Top 12 students are congratulated by superintendent Tony Trongone (left) and PTHS principal Eder Joseph (2nd from right). Students left to right: Jessica Lecorchick, Joshua Wright, Tiana McCarthy, Miles Phillips, Naiomi Israel, Christopher Lutz, Erin Curley, Guy Perryman, Cian Maillard, Richard Del Vecchio, Jonathan Cwiklinski and Jazmin Belton.

Helen Fort Students Turn up the Heat at the Fire Bowl!



Members of the Helen Fort Fire Bowl Team had an impressive goal this year: Make it to the state finals and place in the top 3. And through hard work, determination, and countless hours of studying after school, they achieved their goal by coming in 2nd in the state finals, becoming the first team from South Jersey to do so.

The Fire Information and Rescue Education Bowl (F.I.R.E. Bowl) is an annual competition that promotes fire safety education among middle school students through a quiz show-inspired format. This year, **Destinee Goodly** placed 3rd overall in the preliminary individual competition and **Ella South, Rachel Hussmann, and David Baker** finished in first place as a team. This allowed the team to compete at the state level at the Annual Fire Bowl Competition, where they earned 2nd place. "I couldn't be prouder of what we achieved this year," said adviser Scott Mitchell. "And with the entire team comprised of 7th graders, we

look forward to having an another year to improve on what we did this year."

Above, members of the 2018 FIRE Bowl Team don their fire hats. Standing: Adviser Mr. Mitchell, Rachel Hussmann, Ella South, Elyssa Gravatt, Kyra Knight, and David Baker. Kneeling are Edgar Ochoa and Destinee Goodly.



Newcomb's Budding Authors Showcase Novels

Armed with advertisements on display boards, copies of their books and even a multi-media trailer promoting their novels, young authors in Ms. Grgas' 6th grade language arts class shared their creative stories at the 2nd annual "Author's Walk." Parents, staff and students enjoyed the afternoon, making the rounds from author to author, collecting signed copies of the students' books. The event grew out of an assignment last year, when students expanded on a smaller project. "They worked so hard and were so creative, I decided to showcase their work," Grgas said of last year's authors. "This year's students were so enthralled by the novels and trailers from last year, that they wanted to do the project too."



Above, Ava Emmons & Brianna Fiorella proudly display their work and below, visitors enjoy the "Author's Walk."

[Author's Walk Photo Gallery](#)

National Junior Honor Society Induction



Helen Fort Middle School inducted 30 seventh graders into their chapter of the National Junior Honor Society this spring. To earn admission to this prestigious group, students must meet the criteria set forth by the NJHS, which includes exhibiting the qualities of scholarship, leadership, service, character and citizenship.

[Click for list of NJHS Inductees](#)

[NJHS Photo Gallery](#)



PTHS Student Accepted to

Coop End of Year Awards

The PTHS School-to-Career Advisory Board presents awards to outstanding co-op students and students interns every quarter, culminating in the end of year awards.

Congratulations to the final recipients above for being named the best of the year: Left to right are: **Ashley Anderson**, Employment Coop Student of the Year; **Siani Smith**, Academic Coop Student of the Year; **Omolade Awolunate**, #1 Coop Student of the Year; and **Riley Azara**, Student Intern of the Year.

Temple STEM Camp

Freshman Robert Midura has been selected to attend the 2018 STEM-UP Program at Temple University. STEM-UP is a unique program providing integrated instruction designed to enhance students' knowledge in STEM fields.

Over the summer, Robert will be involved in classes, experiments, projects, and field experiences, including a trip to visit with NAVSEA Scientists and Engineers. Congratulations on this outstanding opportunity Robert!

~ Pemberton Staff News ~



FOX29 TOP TEACHER

Helen Fort 7th grade Social Studies teacher **Michael Martusis** has been named a 2018 "Top Teacher" by Fox29 in Philadelphia. Sponsored by NJEA, AC Moore and the Franklin Institute, the award recognized 5 teachers from New Jersey and 5 from Pennsylvania for making a difference in the lives of their students. Martusis was presented with the award at a ceremony at the Franklin Institute.

"It's an honor to represent Pemberton and all the children I teach every day. I couldn't do it without them." Martusis said.

Congratulations on this achievement!



Interim BA Appointed

Paul Whitman has been named interim school business administrator for the district. He brings over 26 years of BA experience to Pemberton, having served as the business administrator at BCIT, Florence Township and Upper Pittsgrove school districts, as well as interim business administrator for a number of other districts. Paul earned his master's degree from Glassboro State College, and his bachelor's degree from Rider University. He will remain at Pemberton until a new assistant superintendent of business/board secretary is named. Welcome to Pemberton, Paul!



CONGRATS Retirees!

Over 50 Pemberton staff members are retiring this year, many after serving long tenures in the district. **Donald Hopkins**, head custodian at PTHS, tops the list in years served, with **48 years** of service to Pemberton! Not far behind is Helen Fort English teacher **Susette Ventura**, with **41 years** of service.

The combined total years of service the retirees have given to Pemberton is **1,257 years!** [Click here to see the complete list of retirees and their years of service.](#)

Above, Cathy Wishart receives her certificate from PTEA president Kathy Vogel at the Spring Fling Retirement Luncheon.

Watch the PTHS Graduation & Helen Fort Team Awards LIVE on YouTube! [Click here](#) to go to the Channel 19 Live Stream Page.

Helen Fort Team 8-1: June 26th, 9 am

Team 8-2: June 25th, 11 am • Team 8-3: June 25, 9 am

PTHS Graduation: Monday, June 25th, 6 pm



Be sure to watch **Superintendent Tony Trongone** as he brings you the latest information on school programs and initiatives on his video blog ***Inside Outlook***.

Click here to watch the most recent episode, and catch up on ones you may have missed!



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